

Description of a new species of *Haustellum*

(Gastropoda: Muricidae) from the western Indian Ocean

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KEY-WORDS: Gastropoda, Muricidae, *Haustellum*, new species, Indian Ocean.

ABSTRACT. *Haustellum danilai* is described from 3 specimens from the Saya de Malha Bank in the Western Indian Ocean. The new species is similar to *H. malabaricus* (E.A. Smith, 1894), *H. purdyae* (Radwin & D'Attilio, 1976) and *H. mindanaoensis* (Sowerby, 1841).

INTRODUCTION

PONDER & VOKES (1988) used the genus *Haustellum* Schumacher, 1817 for all the species with almost spineless shell and without labral tooth. Although they are certainly separate from *Murex* s.s., I am not convinced of the assignment of all those species to *Haustellum*, a genus of which the type-species is characterized by the globose and spineless last whorl, rounded varices, roundly-ovate aperture, and a few other distinctive features signalized in HOUART (1990). In the meantime, to distinguish the two "groups", I will continue to refer to one as "*Haustellum* group 1" (type-species *Murex haustellum* Linné, 1758), and the other one as "*Haustellum* group 2".

Genus *Haustellum* Schumacher, 1817

"*Haustellum* group 2"

Haustellum danilai n.sp.

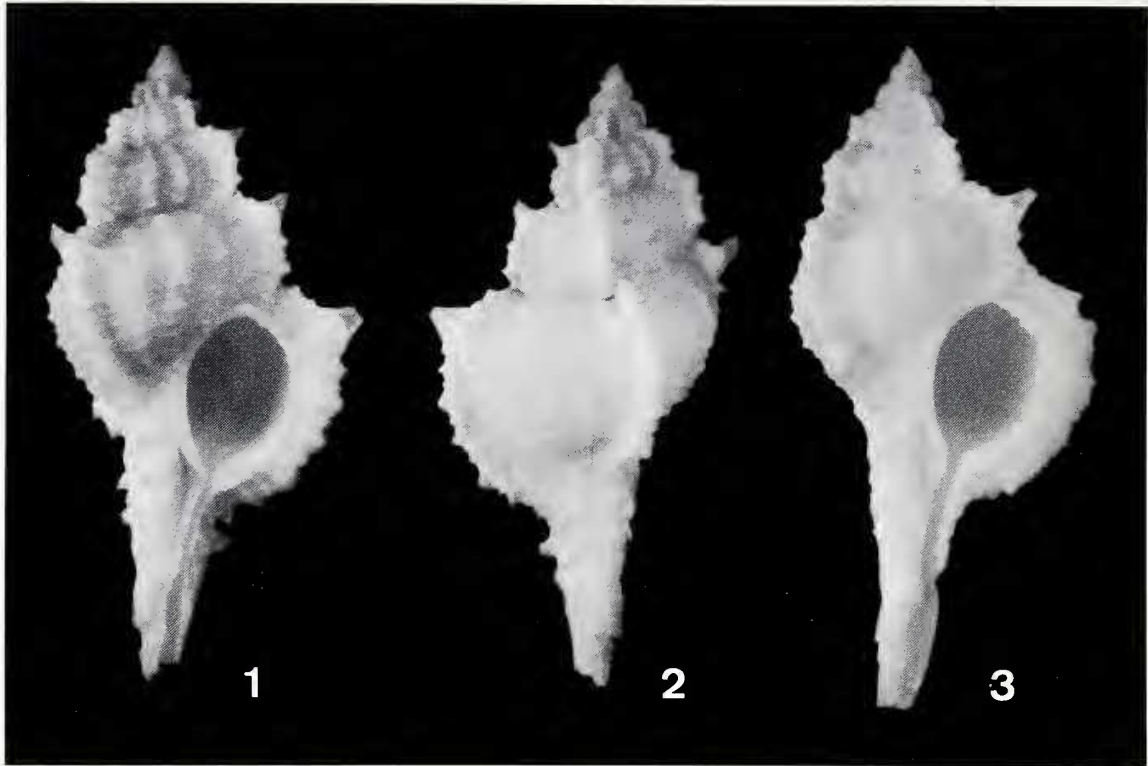
Figs 1-4

TYPE MATERIAL. Saya de Malha Bank, Indian Ocean, approximately 10°30' S - 60°00' E, 80- 100 m, 1988 (holotype Maritime Museum and Aquarium, Klaipeda, Lithuania, n°

KJM 7620; 1 paratype coll. H. Danila). Saya de Malha Bank, 130 m, 1989, R.V. Gordy, 1 paratype coll. R. Houart.

DESCRIPTION.

Shell small for the genus, 36-47 mm in length, lightly built. Spire high, with 1.5-1.75 protoconch whorls and up to 7 rounded teleoconch whorls. Protoconch paucispiral, smooth; terminal varix unknown (eroded). Suture impressed. First teleoconch whorl with 12 axial ribs, second with 11, third to last teleoconch whorl with 3 varices and 3 or 4 intervarical axial ridges. Last teleoconch whorl with 3 weakly spinose varices and 3 or 4, sometimes indistinct, axial ridges crossed with many spiral cords and threads of various strength. Varices with a small, open shoulder spine and small, broadly open spinelets abapically. Aperture roundly-ovate. Columellar lip adherent or very weakly detached abapically. Anal notch broad, almost obsolete. Outer lip slightly crenulate, briefly lirate within. Siphonal canal long, narrowly open, spineless or with 1 or 2 short spines near base of last whorl. Whitish.



Figs 1-3.

1-2. *Haustellum danilai* n.sp. Holotype, Maritime Museum and Aquarium, Klaipėda, 36 X 18 mm. 3. *Haustellum danilai* n.sp. Paratype coll. H. Danila, 37.5 X 17.5 mm.

REMARKS

Of the Indo-West Pacific species included in *Haustellum*, the most similar are compared below. *Haustellum malabaricus* (E.A. Smith, 1894), from the Indian Ocean, differs only in having a different protoconch morphology; the protoconch is rounded and paucispiral, i.e. of lecithotrophic type, in *H. danilai*, but conical and multispiral in *H. malabaricus*, consisting of 2.5-3 glossy whorls. Other differences such as dimensions and colour are not considered as very reliable criteria here. *H. malabaricus* is

usually twice as large, but all examined specimens have one or two more teleoconch whorls. *Haustellum purdyae* (Radwin & D'Attilio, 1976) has a smoother and almost spineless shell with fewer axial ribs, and the protoconch is 2 or 3 times larger. *Haustellum mindanaoensis* (Sowerby, 1841), known only from the Philippine Islands and Papua New Guinea (PONDER & VOKES, 1988: 115), is almost twice as large, more spinose, with stronger axial ribs and recurved siphonal canal, with previous canals fused into a tube, open by a narrow slit.



Fig. 4. *Haustellum danilai* n.sp. Protoconch (scale bar: 0.5 mm).

ETYMOLOGY.

Named for Dr. Henrika Danila, Lithuania.

Acknowledgements. This paper was possible thanks to Dr. H. Danila (Lithuania) and Mr. I. Bondarev (Russia) who procured me the studied material. I am most grateful to both of them.

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